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January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

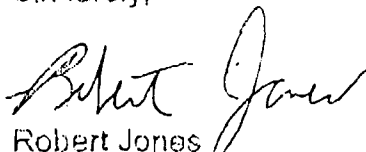
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I would like to convey to you my support for the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. This settlement ends an expensive court battle and will facilitate the American technology industry in its efforts to once again flourish.

This unprecedented settlement will create more openness in the technology sector. The settlement gives competitors more access to Microsoft's product information and code than any other company has ever had to disclose in the history of the technology industry. More expensive courtroom battles and conflict will serve only to increase the legal bills of the government and Microsoft. Microsoft has agreed to more terms in the settlement than were actually at issue in the lawsuit to facilitate a reasonable conclusion to the suit.

Undoubtedly this settlement's time has come. No further Federal action is required in this case. Microsoft and the DOJ should finalize the settlement and help to focus the high tech sector of our economy on technology and not lawyers.

Sincerely,


Robert Jones
Bob Jones Tax Service